

3-30-1829

Letter from Ruth Ross to James B. Finley

Ruth Ross

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Recommended Citation

Ross, Ruth, "Letter from Ruth Ross to James B. Finley" (1829). *Finley Letters*. 68.
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Monroe March 30th 1829

Much esteemed brother & sister,

As I am not permitted to enjoy the pleasure of your society,
I have taken my pen this evening to converse with you, though
at a distance. — when I sit down to write to you, all the
trying scenes through which I have passed, rushes to my
mind, and truly I may adopt the following lines and say,
Pensive memory now retraces, scenes of bliss, scenes fled,
Lines in former times, and places, holds communion with the ^{dead}.
soon after I recovered from the affliction under which I laboured
when you were in this place, it pleased the Lord to lay
his afflicting hand upon my eldest son, which in 23 hours
terminated his earthly existence. he was 15 years and 5
months to the day on which he left this world of sorrow, and
I have reason to believe entered the peaceful regions of
everlasting rest. few of his age are possessed of such a mind.
as his, it appeared as if his mind was detached from every
thing on earth except his studies, in which he made great
proficiency and whilst others of his own age would be planning
scenes of earthly happiness, he seemed to take no interest in their
earthly good, nor to set his heart upon any thing around him.
but alas, he is gone, and, like blossomed tree, returned by winter
and storm, lovely in death, the heauteous ruin lay. —
Oh my friends, you can more readily conceive than I can possibly
describe my feelings at that time, but in this as in all other
trials, the Lord has been my stay and my staff, he is my strong
hold in the day of trouble, oh that I may be enabled to glorify
him, even in the furnace of affliction. My dear friends altho I
have drunk deeply of the cup of sorrow, yet the Lord has mingled
it with joy, he has given me an assurance that my dear Thomas
has entered the haven of everlasting rest, and I do believe he will
be permitted to be one amongst the celestial guards sent to convey
the spirit of his widowed mother to the peaceful shores of uns-
sullied happiness, there to join with those dear friends who are gone

Monroe
April 2nd

Reverend James P. Linley

Nidgerille

Warren County Ohio

Smith Shop
Nov 29

before, in singing praises to God and the Lamb through the
centuries ages of eternity. — I have three children yet on earth,
two Daughters and one son, my eldest Daughter was married on
the twentieth Day of last November to Mr J Woodmansee, at that
time they were both destitute of the comforts of Religion, and Rema-
ined so untill the quarterly meeting held at Hamilton on the
21 and 22 of February when it pleased the Lord to show them
their situation, brother Scimmon called to see us one week
before the quarterly meeting at H, and upon conversing about my
family, I told him I felt almost discouraged about my children,
that I had seen children converted to God for whom I had no
Reason to believe their parents had ever offered up one prayer,
and that my daily prayer for years had been offered up, mix-
ed with tears, for the salvation of my children, and yet they
Remained destitute of that Heavenly treasure, the time rolled
Round, and my son-in-law and both my Daughters attended the
quarterly meeting, and glory to God, the power that wakes the
Dead, and bids the sleeper arise, arrested them, they all three
went forward on Saturday night to be prayed for, but found no
Relief and left the meeting House in the deepest Distress, Returned
next morning to breakfast still under the deepest conviction, in
breakfast the door was opened to receive members, my two Daughters
went forward, Mr Woodmansee stayed back untill Brother
Baughman went to him the second time when he arose and
went forward, in the greatest agony of soul, and gave in
his name, and just as he turned to Return to his seat
he Received the blessing, and shouted glory glory, my Daughters
Returned home without receiving the blessing, but in one week
afterwards the eldest was set at liberty and Mary the younger ap-
pears to be earnestly seeking the head of great price. Oh Sister
Shirley help me to praise the Lord for his tender mercy, for
his loving kindness to me and my dear children. I have

never been a very noisy Methodist, but bless the Lord my
small vessel has not been able to contain what I have experienced
for one month that is past, it has run over considerably, and I
have indeed made a gooddeal of noise and indeed the very
breathings of my heart continually is, glory glory to God, for his
unmerited mercy, and tender compassion toward me, an unwor-
thy, creature, when I Reflect upon my own nothingness, and
contemplate the greatness and goodness of the Almighty, I am Ready
to exclaim, Lord what am I, that thou art mindful of me,
or that thou shouldst hear and answer my feeble petitions.
I fear I have wearied your patience, but pardon me my friends,
my heart is full, and out of the abundance of the heart, my
mouth speaketh, and unto you, as unto my parents, I
impart all my joys and all my sorrows. I hope you
still hear me up in the arms of faith and prayer, that I may
be preserved from falling into the snares of the enemy, and
preserved faithful untill Death. I hope you will come and
see us this spring and send on an appointment before you
leave and I will have it given out, if you know how much
I desire to see you both, you would I think, try to come,
give my respects to brother and sister Brock, tell Mr B
that I shall expect him to preach once in Monroe this spring
or summer, and bring sister Brock with him, I hope you will
answer this poor scribble and inform me when you ^{are} all coming
to Monroe. Adieu my friends and may the choicest blessings
of Heaven ever Rest upon you is the prayer of your unworthy
though very sincere friend - - - - - Ruth Ross

James B, and Hannah Finley

Ross